

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 31, 2003. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the above amendment, claims 1, 4, and 11, and non-elected claims 26-48 are cancelled. Thus, claims 2-3, 5-10 and 12-25 are currently pending in the present application.

On page 10 of the Office Action, it is noted that claims 9, 10, and 14-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the respective base claims, and therefore new independent claims 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 and 24 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record. Note that each of claims 14, 15 and 24, which each includes the limitations of claim 11, have been written to provide proper antecedent basis for the "pressurizing member", thereby avoiding the objection, set forth in the previous Office Action, to claim 11.

Further, please note that the remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from one of the allowable independent claims, and thus are similarly allowable.

In view of the cancelled claims and the presentation of the allowable independent claims, the outstanding rejections over the prior art are now moot. Accordingly, it is